



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Roger Berliner  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Berliner:                      Bill 12-16- County Minimum Wage

The AAC has been monitoring the County Minimum Wage Bill 12-16 including the January 23, 2017 letter from the County Executive where he reluctantly vetoed it and returned to the Council.

The AAC agrees with the County Executive's position on this bill that "went too far, too fast" and we further agree when the County Executive stated "I remain concerned, however about the competitive disadvantage Bill 12-16 would put the County in compared to our neighboring jurisdictions".

The AAC supports the County Executive's suggestion that an "exemption for small business" should be included in the Bill and we believe agricultural businesses should be included within the definition of small business. There is a misunderstanding on how the Federal and State agricultural worker's exemptions are determined. If a farmer employs more than 6.4 employees that work 6 days per week for a quarter of the year, then the minimum wage is required to be paid. Workers that are running the cash registers do not qualify for the agricultural exemption. There are several farms in the County with agricultural workers (Butlers Orchard, Homestead Farm, and Rock Hill Orchard) where the County minimum wage will be paid to these workers.

The AAC would like to be included in the timely study that the County Executive recommends to study relevant issues on the fiscal and economic impact of an increase in the minimum wage on Montgomery County.

The AAC thanks the County Council for this opportunity to present our views on Bill 12-16 and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer, Chairman

Cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

